

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 052031

FOLLOWING SENT SECSTATE WASHDC LIBREVILLE CONAKRY YAOUNDE
DOUALA FROM MADRID 08 MAR 74:

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 1554

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SP, EK, CU

SUBJ: CUBAN ACTIVITIES IN EQUATORIAL GUINEA

REF: MADRID A-35, FEB 6, 1974

1. DIRECTOR GENERAL OF IBERO-AMERICAN AFFAIRS OF MFA
(FERNANDEZ SHAW) CALLED IN EMBOFF MARCH 6 TO EXPRESS
MINISTRY'S CONCERN OVER EVIDENCE OF GROWING CUBAN PRESENCE
IN EQUATORIAL GUINEA. HE COMMENTED THAT WHILE RECENT
BREZHNEV-CASTRO ENCOUNTER IN HAVANA WOULD INDICATE CUBAN
COMMITMENT TO REDUCE EXPORT OF REVOLUTION WITHIN WESTERN
HEMISPHERE, REPORTS FROM EG SUGGESTED THAT CASTRO NOW EXPORT-
ING HIS SURPLUS REVOLUTIONARIES TO AFRICA.

2. FERNANDEZ SHAW FELT THAT SINCE CUBAN ACTIVITIES IN AFRICA
WERE UNDOUBTEDLY OF INTEREST TO US, WE MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN
FURTHER EXCHANGES OF INFORMATION. HE SAW EVIDENCE THAT SOME
CUBANS ARE TRAVELING BETWEEN EG AND HABANA BY WAY OF MADRID
AND HE WONDERED WHETHER US MIGHT BE ABLE TO ADD TO MFA'S
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INFORMATION ABOUT CUBANS TRANSITING MADRID. EMBOFF COMMENTED

THAT THERE HAD BEEN PREVIOUS DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN EMBASSY OFFICERS AND MFA AFRICAN AFFAIRS OFFICIALS OF EQUATORIAL GUINEA SITUATION AND THAT OUR IMPRESSION WAS THAT SPANISH, WITH EMBASSY IN MALABO, HAS MORE COMPLETE INFORMATION THAN USG ON CUBAN BUILDUP. EMBOFF STATED HE WOULD SEE WHAT ADDITIONAL INFO AVAILABLE ON EG AND RELATED CUBAN ACTIVITIES AND CONSULT ABOUT POSSIBILITY OF SHARING IT.

3. FERNANDEZ SHAW THEN GAVE EMBOFF FOLLOWING UNDATED, UNATTRIBUTED INTELLIGENCE REPORT, SUGGESTING THAT WE MIGHT BEGIN EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION BY HAVING US COMMENT ON OR AMPLIFY INFORMATION IN REPORT.
BEGIN INFORMAL TRANSLATION OF TEXT:

"ACCORDING TO INFORMATION FROM RELIABLE SOURCES, APPROXIMATELY 400 CUBANS ARE NOW WORKING IN EQUATORIAL GUINEA ON VARIOUS PROJECTS IN AGRICULTURE, EDUCATION AND PARA-MILITARY INSTRUCTION OF YOUTH. FOR THE LATTER, WOODEN WEAPONS ARE USED. INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE HAVE THE OBLIGATION TO ALLOW FOR FREE TIME SO THAT THIS PRE-MILITARY INSTRUCTION CAN BE HELD.

"IN THE BEGINNING, EQUATORIAL GUINEA RECEIVED APPROXIMATELY 200 CHINESE INSTRUCTORS WHO CONDUCTED POLITICAL WORK. THEY APPARENTLY FAILED IN THEIR ATTEMPT TO POLITICIZE THE COLORED POPULATION OF EG BECAUSE OF THEIR DIFFERENT OUTLOOK. WITH THE FAILURE OF THE CHINESE, THE USSR HAS TAKEN UP THE TASK. IT HAS TURNED THE JOB OVER TO THE CUBANS WHOSE MENTALITY AND LANGUAGE IS CLOSER TO THE EG POPULATION. UNTIL RECENTLY, IT WAS A SPANISH PROVINCE. MAJORITY OF THE ABOVE MENTIONED CUBANS ARE LIVING IN HOTEL "EUREKA" IN SANTA ISABEL, NOW MALABO. 400 CUBANS NOW IN EG TRAVELED IN SPECIAL FLIGHTS FROM HABANA TO MALABO VIA CONAKRY. THERE WERE THREE FLIGHTS USING SOVIET IL-18 AIRCRAFT.

"ON JULY 30, 1973, THE SPECIAL FOREIGN BRIGADE REPORTED THAT THE FOLLOWING PERSONS TOOK IB FLIGHT 941 ON JULY 25 FROM BARAJAS AIRPORT DESTINED FOR HABANA:
ANGEL MACIE NTUTUMU, EG MINISTER OF INTERIOR, BONIFACIO ESONO, EG MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND WERE ACCOMPANIED BY JOSE W. OKORI, DIPLOMATIC PASSPORT NO 79, AND ROSARIO
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MANGUE OBANA, JAIME OMDO NDONGO, WHO HAD REGULAR PASSPORTS. ACCORDING TO THE SAME SOURCE PRESIDENT MACIA'S CONFIDENTIAL ASSISTANT WHOSE IDENTITY IS UNKNOWN AT PRESENT ALTHOUGH HE GOES BY THE NAME OF "CAPTAIN TEODORO" HAS BEEN TAKING SPECIAL COURSES IN CUBA. A SON OF THE EG MINISTER OF INTERIOR HAS ALSO BEEN STUDYING IN THE CUBAN CAPITAL.

"IT IS KNOWN THAT A GROUP OF CUBAN SPECIALISTS HAVE BEEN

CHARGED WITH INTRODUCING TELEVISION IN EG. ITS STUDIOS HAVE BEEN INSTALLED ON THE SUMMIT OF FERNANDO POO AT MORE THAN 3,000 METERS IN ALTITUDE. ONCE IN OPERATION, THEREFORE, THIS TRANSMITTER WILL PROVIDE A MEANS FOR COMMUNIST PROPAGANDA WHICH POSSIBLY COULD REACH THE ISLAND OF SANTO TOME, GABON, CAMEROON, ETC.

"ON FEB 12, THE SPECIAL FOREIGN BRIGADE AT BARAJAS AIRPORT REPORTED THE ENTRY OF THE CUBANS, EUSEBIO PEREZ RAMIREZ, PASSPORT NO 005921, AND DENNIS SOTO FONSECA, PASSPORT NO 27.190, WHO WERE PROCEEDING FROM SANTA ISABEL.

"ABOARD AN IBERIAN FLIGHT WHICH LEFT BARAJAS AT 1045 AM FEB 18, FOR SANTA ISABEL THERE WERE THE FOLLOWING SIX CUBAN TRAVELERS WHO CARRIED DIPLOMATIC PASSPORTS AND WERE ACCOMPANIED BY SEVERAL CHILDREN.

ROGELIO CONDE REQUEJO

MARCOS ROJER ROMERO

ROSA ALBAREZ JIMENEZ

LOURDES SOTOLENGO DPEGUEZ

ERNESTO FERRER MACHIN

CECILIO GARCIA RODRIGUEZ" END TEXT.

4. IN VIEW OF PAST SPANISH HELP ON EG, EMBASSY BELIEVES US SHOULD BE RESPONSIVE TO SPANISH INTEREST IN EXCHANGING INFORMATION ON DEVELOPMENTS IN EG. MOREOVER, EXCHANGES OF THIS TYPE HELP STRENGTHEN OVERALL US-SPANISH WORKING RELATIONSHIP. WOULD WELCOME ANY COMMENTS ON REPORT FROM ADDRESSEES. RIVERO UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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